

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

Please amend Fig. 1 of the drawings as shown on the replacement sheet.

REMARKS

The allowability of claims 46 and 49 is gratefully acknowledged. These claims were respectively incorporated into main claims 43 and 56, which are now believed to be allowable together with their dependent claims.

Regarding the objection to the drawings, the enclosed replacement sheet of Fig. 1 breaks each ring 20, 30, 40, 50, 60 into two concentric rings (each ring corresponding to one fiber), each ring having an arrow. Basis for this amendment can be found in the specification on page 11, lines 4-10.

Claims 45, 47, 58 and 60 were amended to set forth these claims with more particularity.

Claims 53, 55, 66 and 68 have been amended to make it clear that each path is operative for guiding the respective radiation therealong, and the interface is operative for communicating said at least one component in one of the first path and the second path.

Petition is hereby made for a three-month extension of the period to respond to the outstanding Official Action to May 17, 2006. A check in the amount of \$1,020.00, as the Petition fee, is enclosed herewith. If there are any additional charges, or any overpayment, in connection with the filing of the amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such deficiency, or credit any such overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-1145.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KIRSCHSTEIN, OTTINGER, ISRAEL & SCHIFFMILLER, P.C.

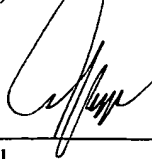
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